

**East Greenwich School Committee**

**Friday, March 12, 2010**

**Hanaford School**

**East Greenwich, RI 02818**

**ANY ITEMS ON THE AGENDA MAY BE SUBJECT TO A VOTE**

**A meeting of the East Greenwich School Committee was called to order at the Hanaford School at 5:35 p.m. by Chair, Jean Ann Guliano.**

**Those in attendance were: Jean Ann Guliano, Chair, Deidre Gifford, Robert Durant, Paul Martin, Susan Records, and Mary Ellen Winters, as well as Superintendent of Schools Dr. Victor Mercurio and Maryanne Crawford, Director of Administration. Mrs. Palumbo was absent.**

**I. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

**II. Approval of Minutes**

**Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the minutes of the Joint Executive Session of School Committee and Town Council on November 17, 2009, and March 2, 2010 Executive and Regular Sessions. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Winters made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 Regular and Executive Sessions. The motion passed with Mr. Martin abstaining.**

**III. Adoption of 2011 Budget**

Dr. Mercurio stated that there may be 29 incoming students from Cole who will take French but we may lose some to private school. It was noted that no extra sections were opened up in French in the past three years. It was also stated that having student take another high level course at a different period allows them to do other things, but if staffing is reduced the latitude goes away. Mr. Durant noted that we still don't know the numbers who have signed up for next year for French. Mrs. Gifford stated that if we present a budget to the town that has the French teacher in it, it gives us flexibility. Mr. Durant noted he is more comfortable saying we need a certain number of staff. We also don't know what we are getting from the Governor. Mr. Durant feels we should give the town a level budget and not be bound to certain teachers. Mrs. Gifford stated that we can't tell the demand at the high school because of student's schedules. Mr. Martin noted that he won't vote for a budget that has reductions in teaching staff. He added the school department is always asked to cut and asked where the town's cuts are. Mrs. Crawford noted that we need \$80,000 in additional cuts. She stated that we put back funds for COA in the amount of \$15,800, and now that the French teacher is put back in, we need to find another \$80,000. Mrs. Crawford stated that health insurance may come in less than the 8% increase. The School Committee would like letters from two health consultants stating why we shouldn't go out to bid for health insurance. This is needed for the Finance Committee. Mrs. Crawford noted that \$100,000 was budgeted for the school attorney, but we need an additional \$25,000. She also stated that we still don't

know about teacher retirees and the deadline for them to notify us that they'll retire is April 1st. Mrs. Gifford would like Mrs. Crawford to give the Committee the cuts on paper. Mrs. Guliano would like to present a budget with a zero increase (the same as last year) but include a memo stating that \$80,000 still needs to be reduced. Mr. Durant stated that the memo should say we'll pick at that reduction and get there. She would also like a charter change as to when the budget needs to be submitted since March 15th is too early. Mrs. Winters feels we will have better numbers for classes with that later date. Dr. Mercurio reiterated that there will not be a cut in the high school budget under French. Mrs. Crawford stated she will make the additional cuts somewhere, and she will have additional information in a few weeks. Mrs. Guliano noted the School Committee will have to re-vote when they identify the additional \$80,000. Mrs. Gifford mentioned that when the public doesn't know what we will cut it'll be hard to have them support our budget. Mrs. Records stated that the Committee needs to better defend the budget they are submitting. Mrs. Winters questioned why we have the COA Director on our payroll. Mrs. Crawford would prefer to just give COA the donation we already have in the budget.

**Mrs. Gifford made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to add \$80,000 to the budget number of \$32,001,516, making it \$32,091,516. Mrs. Records wants the additional money to let the Town Council know it is what we need to keep the level of services. Mr. Durant, Mrs. Guliano and Mrs. Winters voted no; Mr. Martin, Mrs. Gifford and Mrs. Records voted yes. The motion did not pass. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve a budget of \$32,111,516 with the stipulation that we can find savings in other areas. Mrs. Gifford doesn't like the precedent of passing a budget when we have to find cuts. She would like to see exactly what she is voting on. On the vote to approve the budget of \$32,111,516, Mr. Durant, Mrs. Guliano, Mrs. Records, Mr. Martin and Mrs. Winters voted yes, and Mrs. Gifford voted no. The motion passed.**

#### **IV. Action Items**

##### **a. Parental Leave**

**1. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the parental leave of Stacy Munzert, Art Teacher at EGHS, from 8-30-10 through January 17, 2011. The motion passed unanimously.**

**b. Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Durant to approve the school calendar for the 2010-2011 school year. The motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Mrs. Records made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Winters to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to New York on Friday, March 26 and Thursday, April 1, 2010 for Cole Middle School Family and Consumer Science Classes. The motion passed unanimously.**

**d. Mr. Durant made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to Nature's Classroom in Groton, MA (new dates) on April 7, 8 and 9th, 2010 for grade 6 students for Hanaford School and Eldredge School for April 5,6, and 7, 2010. The motion passed unanimously**

**V. On a motion made by Mrs. Winters and seconded by Mr. Durant, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:45p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Virginia Giuliani**

**Secretary**